



AFFIRMATION:

UNITED METHODISTS FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CONCERNS

Post Office Box 1021 Evanston, Illinois 60204

FEB 10 1986

WINTER 1986

RECEIVED
FEB 23 2024

AN UPDATE ON OUR MADNESS

BY:

With characteristic confusion and contradiction, the United Methodist Church and related agencies continue to step forward and backward as they relate to lesbians and gay men.

One forward step deserving commendation is the offering of a course in gay and lesbian ministry by Wesley Theological Seminary in Wash. DC. The seminary's Lay Resource Center (LRC) is offering the course during February and March (see story elsewhere in this newsletter).

Another step forward is a decision by the UMC's Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) to undertake at its Spring 1986 meeting a study on Homophobia as it is related to sexism. The idea for such a study was put forward by COSROW staff and board members who claim to have become objects of anti-gay/lesbian epithets as a result of their pro-feminist work in the church. Affirmation has been invited to participate in the study, and national co-spokesperson Mary Gaddis of Holy City, CA, is consulting with the Commission.

One backward step is related to the continuing appointment of openly gay pastor Julian Rush to St. Paul's UMC in Denver, CO and to the Colorado AIDS Project. Steps are now being taken to revoke Rush's orders. Following the upholding of the constitutionality of 1984 General Conference legislation prohibiting ordination and appointment of openly gay and lesbian clergy by the UMC's Judicial Council in October 1984, Denver area Bishop Roy Sano reappointed Rush because he (Rush) had not been declared "unfit for ministry" under established UMC trial procedures. This angered several conservative UMC clergy in the local Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC). They then filed formal grievances against Rush in July 1985 and a formal investigation was begun. used in the 1984 legislation). Under the

However a Committee on Investigation set up to handle the matter ran into an obstacle: there was no established definition as to what constituted a "self-avowed, practicing homosexual" (the term 1984 Judicial Council ruling, the Conference was to be responsible for defining and applying the term. Another special committee was then set up to develop a definition and a special clergy session of the RMC was called to approve such. Only then could the procedures against Rush proceed. The special clergy session was to have been held on December 8, 1985, but was postponed because of a snowstorm. It was rescheduled for January 28th. At the Jan. 28th Executive Session of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference, its Board of Ordained Ministry presented the definition and accompanying guidelines prepared by the special advisory committee. These were accepted without change. The definition reads "A self-avowed practicing homosexual is a person who engages in, and
Cont. p. 7

Seattle is Excitement April 4-6

Seattle in the spring! Bright blue skies, the Pike Street Market freshly washed by the rain, the ocean and mountain grandeur of the Pacific Northwest, the warmth of old friends and the excitement of making new ones! What more could anyone possibly want in an Affirmation meeting than that?

Workshops. An opportunity to think and talk together on important issues of mutual concern. Three topic areas have been established:

1. Coupling and Uncoupling. An opportunity to share experiences, insights and support about entering relationships, arriving at agreements about the nature of a relationship, and responding to changes. Not for couples only.

2. Seeking Spirituality. A look at how we connect with the divine through devotional discipline, prayer and meditation, action for social justice and other means, with an examination of the special challenges and possibilities for gay and lesbian Christians in making this connection.
cont. p. 5

Inside...

News from Local Groups.....pp. 3-4
Registration Info for April Mtg.....p. 5
March 26 Call.....p. 6
New World Outlook on AIDS.....p. 8

HITTING THE BALANCE

One of the frequent struggles that confront local Affirmation groups, particularly early in their organizational life, is "hitting a balance" in meeting individual needs and in creating a group which is truly representative of the broad spectrum of persons who are gay men or lesbians, and their friends and family members. This is not easy. It takes hard work. And tension around meeting such needs can destroy, if not cripple a group if not faced squarely, honestly, and lovingly.

We all know that Affirmation is supposed to be a group which provides for individual support needs and which engages the United Methodist Church in processes of dialogue and healing around lesbians and gay men in its midst. In theory, such a two-pronged ministry is not difficult to figure out. Yet in practice, it is a real challenge. Without any bad intentions on anyone's part, one aspect of our work can come to dominate another leading either to an inbred isolation, frustration, burnout, anger, or fatigue. Some folks will feel left out and potential allies will be lost. What becomes important then is to develop both personal support and outreach/advocacy equally, paying attention all the time to feedback from both "outsiders" and "insiders."

Ideally, a local group should develop a variety of activities to meet various needs - a group of intersecting circles which comprise a whole may be a good image here. Realistically, most groups - especially new ones - can't do all of this right away. In such cases, it then becomes important to develop a commonly-shared vision and strategic plan. The purposes of such a vision and plan are to enable the group, in a realistic and balanced way, to develop its capabilities and meet opportunities before it.

Another word is important here with regard to "balance." It is tragic, but true that many developing gay/lesbian religious groups tend to take on a white male character early on in their lives. For my home group in Washington, D.C. this has been a persistent problem. Such a phenomenon is a reflection of sexist and racist patterns in our society. Not by accident, white men tend to be better

.....local group organizing

trained and socialized in group organization and group process. This dynamic is coupled with another sociological dynamic that a group's initial character tends to set the tone and parameters for its subsequent life. This makes it imperative, therefore, that developing Affirmation groups undertake immediately strategies to broaden and tap into the wide variety of groups which comprise both the lesbian and gay community and the United Methodist Church. Announcements and/or ads to particular groups and/or publications can be very useful. Personal contacts through informal friendship and/or professional networks are also effective. Most important, however, is visible leadership and program development. If social barriers are to be truly overcome, it cannot be just white men who are pulling things together. It must be everyone! This is a major mistake we made here in Washington (and we are paying for it).

Whatever the challenges, forming a local Affirmation group can be rewarding and exciting work. Each quarter, new groups are coming into being which, over time, can have a tremendous impact on the United Methodist Church. As we journey together, let us keep all of our needs before us and reach out and include everyone as we go.

DIALOGUE IN LINCOLN

Nebraska Affirmation is busily preparing for its part in the "Spirituality and Homosexual Persons" conference scheduled for February 28-March 1. Retired Bishop Melvin Wheatley will be the keynote speaker at the event to be held at Lincoln's Unitarian Church. Six workshops will be offered ranging from "Reconciling Congregations" led by Mark Bowman and Beth Richardson, to one entitled "Coming Out/Going Out?" an examination of homophobia in the church led by Morris Floyd. Other workshops include "Family Issues," "The Church and AIDS," "Biblical/Theological Understandings," and "counseling Issues."

The Conference is sponsored by seven cooperating groups and denominations including Nebraska Affirmation and the Nebraska Conference Board of Church and Society. The Conference brochure states

Cont. p. 8



AFFIRMATION:

UNITED METHODISTS FOR LESBIAN AND GAY CONCERNS

Feb. 1986

LOCAL AND REGIONAL AFFIRMATION GROUPS CONTINUE TO GROW AND THRIVE. HERE'S AN UPDATE ON WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THEM:

ATLANTA AFFIRMATION

One of our newest groups is in the North Georgia Conference! Atlanta area Affirmation folks are currently discussing ways to have a presence at this spring's Annual Conference Session, and at local Lesbian/Gay Pride events. They're also looking toward sponsoring an education event for clergy on ministry within the gay & lesbian community. The group meets monthly on the first Thursday, and can be reached through Quentin Hand, [REDACTED] Decatur, GA [REDACTED]

CHICAGO AFFIRMATION

Since our wonderful Fall 1985 meeting in Evanston, folks in the Chicago area have been talking about restarting a group there soon. Contact Mary Jo Osterman, [REDACTED] Evanston, IL [REDACTED]. Interested and energetic volunteers are needed. Affirmation folks in Chicago continue to serve National Affirmation by monitoring our PO box weekly, directing correspondence to the appropriate persons.

DALLAS AFFIRMATION

One regularly functioning group meets monthly in Dallas. Its activities center around a potluck dinner with bible study and prayer. The group is also talking about ways it can positively get involved in AIDS work. Contact Dallas Affirmation through Tim Tyner, [REDACTED] Dallas, TX [REDACTED].

DENVER AFFIRMATION

Monthly potlucks are held on third Wednesdays at 7:30p.m. Currently the gatherings include topical discussions using the book Positively Gay, e.g. "Gays in Religion" and "Aging". Projects of the group include providing a meal for Ronald McDonald House the first Sun. of each month, and AIDS ministry work. Contact the group through George Christie, [REDACTED] Denver, CO [REDACTED]

LOS ANGELES AFFIRMATION

This group continues its leadership in AIDS work for the LA area, particularly through the Spiritual Advisory Committee for the LA AIDS Committee. It meets on first Tuesdays of each month, with a variety of content. Contact this group through [REDACTED] Los Angeles, CA [REDACTED]

INDIANAPOLIS AFFIRMATION

Affirmation members in the Indianapolis area are staying in touch with each other informally. Occasional gatherings maintain a nucleus toward the possibility of an Affirmation group in the future. Interested persons can obtain contact information from national coordinator John Hannay, [REDACTED] Wash. DC [REDACTED]

MADISON AFFIRMATION

A group meets on the first and third Sundays of each month at University United Methodist Church, Madison, WI. They have been supporting that church's work with farmers experiencing economic hardship. They can be reached through University UMC, 1127 University Ave., Madison, WI 53715.

MID-ATLANTIC AFFIRMATION

(Baltimore & Virginia Confs.)

This group has quite a variety of programs. It recently started monthly potlucks for women and for those over 40 ("40 Plusers"!)). It is also talking about doing a major educational conference targeting clergy & lay leadership in the Virginia Conf. They can be reached through [REDACTED] Wash. DC [REDACTED].

NASHVILLE AFFIRMATION

In addition to its monthly fourth Wednesday potlucks, this group keeps an active liaison relationship to Nashville CARES (Council on AIDS Resources, Education and Support). They also are a major component of the planning toward 1986 Pride Week in Nashville. The group has experienced exciting growth this past year and benefits from the richness of near equal numbers of lesbians and gay men in the membership. Contact the group through [REDACTED] Nashville, TN [REDACTED].

NEW YORK WEST AFFIRMATION

An Affirmation group is forming in the confines of the New York West Area (Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, & Utica). Directions for the group are still undetermined and they're looking for participants. They can be reached through Jim Belmont, [REDACTED] Syracuse, NY [REDACTED]

NEBRASKA AFFIRMATION

This group's primary activity currently is preparation for the Dialogue Conference they're co-sponsoring Feb. 28-March 1 (see article elsewhere in this newsletter). In addition they continue their monthly gatherings on second Fridays, alternating between Omaha and Lincoln. Contact the group through [REDACTED] Lincoln NE [REDACTED].

NORTHEAST COAST AFFIRMATION

Affirmation members from major Northeast cities (Boston, New York, Phila. and D.C.) got together in early December to brainstorm ways of developing a regional support network. They are currently aiming at holding a retreat getaway in early July at a campsite along the Northeast corridor. Interested persons should contact D.J. Porter at [REDACTED] New Hope, PA [REDACTED].

PORTLAND AFFIRMATION

Portland Affirmation's new address is [REDACTED] Portland OR [REDACTED]. A local support group of both clergy and lay is forming, and is giving special attention to statewide networking. A recent highlight was the participation with Washington and Idaho groups in the first annual beach retreat. Twenty eight adults along with several of their children enjoyed this great experience!

ST. LOUIS AFFIRMATION

Another new group is in the St. Louis area, aiming to cover both the Missouri East and Southern Illinois Conferences. They hope to meet monthly and can be reached through: St. Louis Affirmation, [REDACTED] St. Louis, MO [REDACTED].

SAN FRANCISCO AFFIRMATION

The San Francisco group gathers occasionally. The current main thrust has been toward increasing the number of Reconciling Congregations in the area. They will be supportive participants in Temple United Methodist Church's upcoming weekend event to explore the Reconciling Congregation Program. This group can be contacted through Fritz Schultz, [REDACTED] San Francisco, CA [REDACTED].

SEATTLE AFFIRMATION

In addition to preparations for hosting the April 4-6 National Affirmation meeting this group has recently experienced a joint "first annual beach retreat" with Oregon and Idaho Affirmation groups. Both adults and children participated in what was a truly wonderful regional event! Seattle Affirmation has recently done goal setting for the future, and some of the women in the group are using their media skills to prepare a slide show promoting the Reconciling Congregation Program (to be ready by spring). This group can be contacted at [REDACTED] Seattle, WA [REDACTED].

REGIONAL ORGANIZING COORDINATORS

Northeast

D.J. Porter,, [REDACTED] New Hope, PA [REDACTED]

Don McGaw, [REDACTED] Wintrop, MA [REDACTED]

South

Tim Tyner, [REDACTED] Dallas, TX [REDACTED]

Jule Ann Young, [REDACTED]

LaFayette, LA [REDACTED]

Nashville Affirmation, [REDACTED]

Nashville, TN [REDACTED]

North Central

Mary Jo Osterman, [REDACTED]

Evanston, IL [REDACTED]

Steve Webster, [REDACTED]

Madison, WI [REDACTED]

Mountains & Plains

Maggie Roe, [REDACTED]

Lincoln, NE [REDACTED]

Southwest & Pacific

Fritz Schultz, [REDACTED] San Francisco, CA [REDACTED]

Cal-Pac Affirmation, [REDACTED]

Hollywood, CA [REDACTED]

Northwest Coast

Chuck Richards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Seattle, WA [REDACTED]

Terry Voss, [REDACTED] Portland OR [REDACTED]

National Coordinators

Shirley Taylor, [REDACTED]

Alameda, CA [REDACTED]

John Hannay, [REDACTED]

Wash. DC [REDACTED]

While many of these local groups may not always have easily accessible meetings, Affirmation members in "far flung" areas should not hesitate to contact nearby groups. Many publish newsletters as a way of keeping "in touch" and involving more distant members in activities. Congratulations to all and keep up the good work!

(We invite local Affirmation groups and individuals to duplicate this insert for distribution)

Seattle cont. from p. 1

3. Sexual Ethics. Participants in this workshop will reflect on how we make decisions about sexual behavior, given the anti-sexual and anti-gay/lesbian context of traditional morality.

On your registration form, you are asked to specify two workshop interests. Come prepared to share ideas and resources on these topics.

Depending on registration for the meeting and availability of resources one or two additional workshops may be added. If there is interest, there can also be impromptu workshops based on participant suggestions. If you have an idea for a special interest group you would like to lead, please indicate that on your registration and come prepared to share.

As with all Affirmation meetings, our time together will include opportunities for good conversation, making friends, worship and personal sharing and support. We are also looking forward to an opportunity to share with two Reconciling Congregations in Seattle, in a joint festival worship service.

Members and friends of Affirmation with children will also be glad to know that local hosts are planning opportunities for them in conjunction with the meeting. The local hosts will offer programmed care for young children and special opportunities for teens. Specific information about site for registration, schedule, ground transportation, directions for those driving, etc., will be sent to persons registering in advance. You are encouraged to submit your registration form as early as possible. But if you find you can come at the last minute, please don't stay away.

Registrationfor AFFIRMATION'S Spring '86 meeting, Seattle, WA April 4-6

Name _____ Evening phone _____

Address _____ Estimated travel cost
(for Travel Pool) \$ _____

Children coming with me: _____ I will need special consideration in regard to the TravelPool
names _____ ages _____ ...I can afford to spend a total
_____ of \$ _____ for travel expense.

Arrival in Seattle will be on (date) _____ at (time) _____ by (means) _____
Will you need transportation to the meeting site? Yes _____ No _____ If YES, give
information as to when, where, flight #, etc. _____

Do you have any special housing or dietary needs? (i.e. vegetarian meals, no pets, non-smoking house, special sleeping arrangements, children with you or in separate housing)

Check two of the following workshops in which you have greatest interest:
_____ Coupling and Uncoupling _____ Seeking Spirituality _____ Sexual Ethics

I'd like to lead an interest group titled _____

Please mail by March 21 to Affirmation, _____ Seattle WA _____. Make
checks payable to AFFIRMATION. Amount enclosed (\$2.00 per \$1000 annual income) \$ _____

_____ I cannot attend the Seattle meeting, but wish to be kept informed and involved.
_____ Enclosed is a contribution as my membership renewal/newsletter subscription\$ _____
_____ Enclosed is an additional contribution toward AFFIRMATION Ministry. \$ _____

A CALL FOR MARCH 26

Affirmation recently received from Evangelicals Concerned and Holy Covenant MCC, (both of Chicago) an invitation to join them in a day of prayer and fasting as the US Supreme Court prepares to hear this spring the case of *Hardwich v. Brown* on the constitutionality of the Georgia "sodomy" law.

"Christian people are called to set aside March 26, the middle of Holy Week, as a day for prayer and fasting to ask God to grant us a favorable Supreme Court decision. Solidarity among the various gay and lesbian Christian groups is important whatever the outcome of the case," the letter of invitation states. "The hope for a definitive ruling on gay and lesbian civil rights is not an unmixed blessing....all our ministries hinge on the ruling. Fasting and prayer are means by which Christian gay and lesbian people can join together in spiritual warfare against the oppression around us. A demon so entrenched as homophobia, one which resists conventional means, may be cast out 'only by prayer and fasting' (Mark 9:29)."

PLAN TO COME !

1986.....Seattle, WA.....April 4-6
to be announced...Sept. 19-21
1987.....to be announced...April 24-26
St. Louis, MO.....Sept. 18-20
1988.....St. Louis, MO.....April 22-24
to be announced...Sept. 16-18

TAX TIME

Affirmation Treasurer Mike Underhill reminds us that statements confirming 1985 tax exempt contributions are available from him upon request - [redacted]
Chicago IL [redacted]

LAST CHANCE

Nominations for Affirmation's 1986-88 Coordinating Committee will be finalized during the Feb. 15-17 meeting in Wash. DC. Last minute nomination suggestions are welcomed and can be phoned to Lyle Loder no later than Feb. 14 [redacted].

A FIRST AT WTS

The Lay Resource Center of Wesley Theological Seminary is offering in its Spring 1986 session a course specifically treating gay and lesbian issues. Titled, "Pastoral Ministries with Lesbians, Gay Men, Their Friends and Families,:" the course will focus on ways that church members and clergy can more positively work with and be inclusive of gay men and lesbian women. The course will be taught by John Hannay, member of Mid-Atlantic Affirmation and recent Wesley graduate, and Rev. Penny Penrose, Executive Director of Partners for Global Justice, a church-related social justice education center in Washington.

The course is believed to be the first of its kind to be offered by a United Methodist theological school. Topics to be covered in the course include human sexual orientation, family and love relationships involving gay men and lesbians, recent Biblical research on frequently cited scriptures, and models for ministry in local churches.

SPOKESPERSONS

Mary Gaddis

Morris Floyd

[redacted]
Holy City, CA [redacted]

[redacted]
Minneapolis, MN [redacted]

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

John Hannay

D.J. Porter

[redacted]
Washington, DC [redacted]

[redacted]
New Hope, PA [redacted]

Virginia Hilton

Shirley Taylor

[redacted]
Albany, CA [redacted]

[redacted]
Alameda, CA [redacted]

Mary Larue

Lyle Loder

[redacted]
Phila., PA [redacted]

[redacted]
Los Angeles, CA [redacted]

Mike Underhill

Two Lesbian Members
whose names cannot
be used.

[redacted]
Chicago, IL [redacted]

MADNESS UPDATE cont. from p. 1
openly acknowledges, genital sexual behavior with a person or persons of the same sex." The report indicated that they "agreed to disagree whether 'practicing' implies habitual, consistent or customary behavior in contrast to isolated, occasional or experimental." Included in the guidelines for application of this definition is the directive to local churches or district committees on ministry, "Candidates should not be interrogated about their private lives but simply made aware of the law and expectations of the church for its ordained clergy." The definition and guidelines as accepted by the Executive Session will now be used by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, meeting in mid February, to make recommendation regarding Rush. If their recommendation involves a change of status for Rush, that will be presented to the Conference in Executive Session at this spring's regular session of the Annual Conference.

Finally, another step backward occurred recently, related to an Affirmation ad which had been running in the United Methodist Reporter (UMR). UMR is an independent, unofficial newspaper covering the UMC. Since the fall of 1984, national Affirmation had been running a classified ad on a space-available basis in UMR, highlighting its address and the availability of printed materials on gay/lesbian concerns. During the next year, the ad garnered a few new members and some low level visibility for Affirmation within the UMC, but received little other attention.

Suddenly, in the September 27, 1985, UMR a Letter to the Editor appeared quoting the ad in its entirety and questioning whether, by running it, UMR was "promot(ing) the affirmation of a homosexual lifestyle." Within a few weeks the paper's editorial page was deluged with anti-lesbian/gay letters from readers demanding that the paid ad be pulled.

At its regularly scheduled Fall 1985 meeting, UMR's Board of Directors took up the issue. After hearing from what it claimed as "both sides of the issue" (no Affirmation persons or other openly gay men or lesbians were invited to speak on the question), the Board adopted a policy that all UMR ads must contain language and/or promote materials "consistent with the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church." With regard to the particular Affirmation ad in question, the Board left implementation of the new

policy up to UMR's editor, Spurgeon Dunham, III.

On November 13, Dunham pulled the ad citing "offensive language and attitudes" in Affirmation materials and a judgement that "Affirmation materials are not primarily pastoral in nature" ("a person seeking pastoral support contrary to Affirmation's advocacy position would not be helped, but hindered by these materials"). Dunham also cited Affirmation's underlying "disagreement" with UMC Social Principles.

In response to Dunham's November decision, Affirmation co-spokespersons Mary Gaddis and Morris Floyd (of Minneapolis, MN), wrote a strongly worded letter to Dunham, questioning the ad pulling process and the effect UMR's decision would have on debate within the UMC. Citing an overall pattern of neglect by UMR in covering Affirmation, Gaddis and Floyd stated, "In deciding not to publish the ad, you have simply extended to advertising the long standing editorial practice of ignoring the positions and work of Affirmation."

Floyd and Gaddis continued, "the most interesting example (of this) occurred prior to and following the 1984 General Conference. Among the hundreds of lines of 'analysis' you published, none offered your readers the opportunity to read our views."

Finally, Gaddis and Floyd sharply chastised Dunham for his statement that the pulling of the classified ad was "agonizing" and "painful." They said: "You should know that it is not members of our group who are most likely to experience pain or difficulty as a result of your decision..."

"It is your readers who are most affected," they pointed out. "We know of at least two suicides that were prevented because that little ad let someone know they were not 'the only one,' that there was someone to turn to for support and affirmation. Are you willing to take responsibility for the consequence of your action?"

What We Can Do:

Regarding both the COSROW and Julian Rush situations, prayers and other expressions of support are most appropriate. Cards and letters may be sent to Julian in care of St. Paul's UMC, 1615 Ogden Street, Denver, CO 80218. Letters may also be sent to Bishop Roy Sano, who is trying to

cont. p. 8

LINCOLN DIALOGUE cont. from p. 2

"The spiritual journeys of gay, lesbian, and bisexual Christians have dimensions and experiences that can enrich and deepen the church's understanding of faith, sexuality, and being human. It is hoped that this Conference will contribute to an important dialog in a profoundly meaningful way. (It) is intended to facilitate exploration of spiritual dimensions of homosexual experience and dialog among: gay, lesbian, and bisexual Christians; other church members and leadership (clergy and lay); other spiritual searchers and seekers. For more information about the Conference you may write Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68508 or Nebraska Affirmation at Box 80122, Lincoln, NE 68501. We can also be reached by calling [REDACTED].

SEND MONEY!!

As 1986 moves in full fling, Affirmation faces several exciting, yet difficult challenges. Additional issues of the journal Manna for the Journey, are scheduled for publication; plans for expanding the Reconciling Congregation Program are unfolding; and, in light of the recent decision by the United Methodist Reporter to discontinue publication of our ad, we are evaluating new ways to reach out to the lesbian and gay community within the church.

Each of these activities, along with Affirmation's ongoing programs of ministry and consciousness raising, require extraordinary resources. Their success depends on both people power and financial support.

Affirmation's Fundraising Committee is continually exploring alternative ways of underwriting our programs. But the reality is that a large portion of Affirmation's financial support will continue to come from individual contributions.

That's where you come in. If you have not renewed your subscription to the Affirmation Newsletter or made a financial contribution in the last year, you will soon be receiving a personal request for help.

You can beat the rush by contributing now. Don't wait to receive your fundraising letter. Send your check, money order or cash contribution to AFFIRMATION, PO Box 1021, Evanston, IL 60204. Remember, all contributions are fully tax deductible.

And, if you have fundraising ideas or suggestions which you would like the committee to consider, or if you can assist with entree to foundations or corporations which might be interested in underwriting specific Affirmation projects, please contact the Fundraising Committee through Chairperson Roger Kruse, Affirmation Fundraising Committee, PO Box 1021, Evanston, IL 60204.

MADNESS UPDATE Cont. from p. 7

be supportive of Julian. His address is:

[REDACTED] Denver, CO [REDACTED]. Letters of support to COSROW should be sent to: The COSROW Secretariat, 1200 Davis Street, Evanston, IL 60201.

Secondly, on the UMR ad decision, letters of concern should be sent to Spurgeon Dunham, III, Editor, The United Methodist Reporter, PO Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275. It is especially important that copies of any letters sent to Dunham also be sent to editors of local church, district, and/or conference editions of UMR. (Reprinted with permission from Mid-Atlantic Affirmation's Newsletter)

NWO Article Noted

NEW WORLD OUTLOOK'S January issue features an article about Christian response to AIDS. "Growing in Compassion: Christians respond to the AIDS crisis by ministering to those suffering from this dreaded disease" by Nancy A. Carter (pp. 19-21), highlights the ministry of several Reconciling Congregations. Washington Square United Methodist Church in New York City, St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Denver, and Bethany United Methodist Church in San Francisco are among a number of local congregations whose stories are included. Also highlighted are the actions of four United Methodist annual conferences: Rocky Mountain, California-Nevada, North Georgia and New York. Ms. Carter notes that staff of the General Board of Global Ministries Health and Welfare Ministries Program Department have been asked to get involved in four areas: 1) "monitoring and making available information about the level of funding to develop a vaccine against AIDS and to carry out a program of public health education." 2) "preparing educational and ministry resources to assist congregations." 3) "investigating ways to reduce the widespread ignorance and fear that lead to violations of civil rights of persons with AIDS." and 4) "consulting with annual conferences, health and welfare institutions, and others in order to determine ways in which the human and civil rights of AIDS patients are jeopardized and advising on steps to remedy this." Local and judicatory efforts of several other Protestant and Roman Catholic groups are discussed in the NEW WORLD OUTLOOK article. Among references to several community-based service organizations are the AIDS Project of the San Francisco East Bay Area directed by Jeremy Landau on special United Methodist appointment, and the Colorado AIDS Project directed by Julian Rush, associate pastor of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Denver.